

Message Text

SECRET

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53

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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Z 131725Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 8615

S E C R E T LISBON 3781

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR

SUBJ: LAJES FLIGHTS

REF: (A) STATE 203571; (B) STATE 203562

1. DELIVERED TEXT PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO FONMIN PATRICIO AT 1600Z TO FIND THAT CAETANO HAD DEPARTED LISBON FOR GUARDA IN NORTHERN PORTUGAL TWO HOURS EARLIER (PRESUMABLY ON ELECTION CAMPAIGN TRIP). PATRICIO IMMEDIATELY GOT IN TOUCH WITH DGS (POLICE WHO ACCOMPANY CAETANO) TO SEE IF THEY COULD REACH CAETANO EN ROUTE. THEY WERE NOT CERTAIN THEY COULD UNTIL HE REACHES GUARDA (ETA 1800Z).

2. PATRICIO WAS VISIBLY UPSET BY LETTER, FELT ITS HARSH TONE UNCALLED FOR, AND IMPROPER BETWEEN ALLIES. HE DENIED THAT PORTUGAL WAS TRYING TO BARGAIN OR WAS BEING UNRESPONSIVE BUT FELT IT HAD TO POINT OUT SERIOUS RISKS IT FACES. IN ADDITION TO POINTS PARA 3 REFTEL, I EMPHASIZED THAT TONE OF LETTER WAS REFLECTION OF DEEP CONCERN PRESIDENT FELT ABOUT SITUATION AND THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO CONSIDER PORTUGUESE REACTION AS ANYTHING BUT UNRESPONSIVE WHEN, IN A SITUATION WHERE EVERY MINUTE COUNTS, WE NOW FACE PROSPECT OF HAVING LOST AT LEAST 24 HOURS.

3. PATRICIO REVEALED THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED SITUATION WITH CAETANO BEFORE LATTER'S DEPARTURE, ON BASIS OF WHICH MEETING HE HAD SENT AMBASSADOR THEMIDO INSTRUCTIONS. THESE WERE,

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OF COURSE, NOW SUPERCEDED BY PRESIDENT'S LETTER. ONLY CAETANO

REACTION HE REVEALED WAS FEELING THAT OUR UNDERTAKING
"TO CONSIDER TOGETHER WITH THE GOP WHAT MIGHT BE DONE TO RESTORE
THE SITUATION" IF PORTUGUESE FEARS REALIZED (REF B) WAS TOO
VAGUE TO CONSTITUTE REASSURANCE. PATRICIO ENDED BY SAYING
THAT, OBVIOUSLY, MATTER WAS ONE HE COULD NOT DECIDE ON HIS
OWN AUTHORITY BUT REQUIRED DECISION BY PRIME MINISTER CAETANO.
POST

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: RR
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731034/aaaaaymv.tel
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Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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TAGS: MARR
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